Dover, William N (owner of painting) DRAWER 19A Artist

BY 2003 083 02315

Artists of Abraham Lincoln portraits

William N. Dovener

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the

Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

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(original in safe)

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LINCOLN LIFE
Referred to Dr Warren
REC'D JUL 7 1941
Answered
OFFICE OF A. F. HALL

Dickerson, Maryland, July 4, 1941.

ack Mr. Arthuer F. Hall,
Chairman of the Board,
Lincoln Nat'l Life Insurance Co.

Dear Mr. Hall,

I am enclosing you herewith a miniature photograph of an oil portrait of Abraham Lincoln. This portrait was offered to the Senate of the United States to replace a representation hanging in the south corridor of the Senate intended for Lincoln.

The Joint Committee of the Senate and House charged with matters of that kind unanimously approved the acceptance of the portrait but it was considered prudent to defer an appropriation of Fifteen Hundred Dollars for its payment until after the election and almost immediately after the election and the enactment of the Lease-Lend Bill the appropriations mounted to such astronomical figures that the Committee decided to approve no appropriations not connected with defense. For this reason Lincoln's portrait is again in my home. Senator Barkley was so pleased with the portrait (he being the Chairman of the Joint Committee) that he allowed himself to be photographed and published in the Washington Times-Herald holding it..

In the issue of the Saturday Evening Post of Nov. 30 last I saw the advertisement of your Company headed by Lincolns picture, and it occurred to me at once how much more striking both the picture and the advertisement would have been if the former had been in colour. You will note, even in the photograph, the lifelike ap-

pearance it presents. It is safe to say that there is not another portrait of Lincoln that equals it. Another, said to have been very much valued by Lincoln's son, was recently presented to the White House by one of his descendants. It makes Lincoln appear as though he had visited a beauty parlor and emerged with "a skin you love to touch." So far as likeness is concerned it is in no way comparable to the portrait I offer you, nor is the view presented calculated to disclose the depths of his character nor the sorrow he bore so manfully.

If your Company is interested in acquiring Lincoln's portrait I can arrange to have it for inspection either in Washington, D. C., from which we are not very distant or at Frederick, Maryland, which is just northwest of us. We are on Route 28.

Sincerely yours,

Wm. N. Dovener.

Wm. N. Dovener.

July 21, 1941

Mr. William N. Dovener
Dickerson, Maryland

My dear Mr. Dovener:

Your letter addressed to Mr. Arthur F. Hall, Chairman of the Board of the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, has been routed to this Department for reply.

The budget of the Foundation would not now warrant our acquisition of any rare paintings although from the historical viewpoint we are interested to know who is the painter of the painting and also when it was done.

We are continually being approached with respect to the availability of fine Lincoln pieces and we would like to have this information in our files.

Very truly yours,

LAW:BST

Director

Dickerson, Maryland, July 27, 1941.

Mr. Louis A. Warren, Director,
Lincoln National Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Mr. Warren,

I have your letter of July 21 and the enclosed photographic print for which I thank you.

The portrait of Abraham Lincoln I offered to Mr. Arthur F. Hall, Chairman of the Board of the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company was painted from an original print from a Brady negative. The portrait was painted by myself perhaps four years ago and never offered for sale until it was considered and accepted by the Congressional Committee of the Senate and House as I related to Mr. Hall. I offered it to replace a libelous painting intended to represent Lincoln which is hanging in the Senate Corridor. The portrait is a trifle larger than life size.

If among your applications you receive a request for such a portrait I shall be very glad to consider it if you refer it to me.

Sincerely yours,

Wm N. Dovener.

Wm. N. Dovener.

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